

Application No. 10/593,664
Reply to Office Action of October 21, 2009

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Docket No.: 66250(70301)

MAR 19 2010

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1 - 14. Cancelled.

15 (Currently amended). A swimming aid device for wearing on the body and for providing buoyancy, comprising

a size-variable element that can be adjusted to the body size and having a first, releasable closure means, whereby the variable body size adjustment can be set,

at least one buoyancy element, wherein the buoyancy element comprises filling material with buoyant granulates, flocks or beads; and

a second, releasable closure means that can be released without altering the set body size adjustment of the size-variable element,

wherein said second, releasable closure means enables the swimming aid device to be put on and taken off conveniently and quickly without altering the body size adjustment of the swimming aid device and comprises a zip with a zip handle and a cover to protect the zip handle.

16 (Currently amended). The swimming aid device according to claim 15, comprising a jacket, wherein the size-variable element, which can be adjusted to the body size, comprises body size adjustment in the hip and/or waist regions, wherein the first, releasable closure means comprises an adjustable reclosable closure, and wherein the second, releasable closure means comprises a reclosable closure that enables the swimming aid device to be put on and taken off conveniently and quickly without altering the body size adjustment of the swimming aid device.

17 (Currently amended). The swimming aid device according to claim 16, wherein the first, releasable closure means comprises lateral straps having hook-and-loop tapes, and in that the second, reclosable closure means comprises a zip or a clicking closure.

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18 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 17, wherein the lateral straps are closed toward the back of the jacket, and/or wherein the second, reclosable closure means comprises a cover.

19 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 16, wherein the jacket further comprises an upper region, having a back part and a front part, and a variably adjustable arm cut out section comprising an adjustable reclosable closure for variable adjustment on the back part and front part in the upper region of the jacket.

20 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 19, wherein the variably adjustable arm cut out section comprises a shoulder strap having hook-and-loop tape.

21 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 15, wherein the size-variable element comprises a support strap that is adjustable to the body size.

22 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 15, wherein the at least one buoyancy element is permanently integrated in the size-variable element.

23 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 15, wherein the device has front and rear parts, a chest side and a rear side, the device further comprising one or more buoyancy elements having one of the following arrangements for controlling the buoyancy:

one or more buoyancy elements provided on the front and rear parts of the size-variable element, or on front and/or rear parts of the size-variable element, wherein the buoyancy elements can themselves be opened and reclosed so that buoyant material can be removed or added; and

a first buoyancy element that is attachable on the chest side next to a second buoyancy element on the rear side.

24 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 23, wherein one or more buoyancy elements comprise cushions filled with buoyant material or panels of closed cell foam.

25 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 21, wherein the support strap comprises a closure point and a buoyancy element is attachable to the closure point with a further reclosable closure means so that the support strap is closed as an entire system and is protected against accidental opening.

26 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 25, wherein the further reclosable closure means comprises hook-and-loop tape.

27 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 15, wherein the size-variable element comprises chambers of water- and airtight material, filled with air, and form buoyancy elements and guarantee buoyancy, optionally combined with other buoyant materials.

28 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 21, wherein the support strap can be releasably closed, with exact fitting, by means of a hook-and-loop closure or by means of another reclosable closure selected from the group consisting of buttons, tapes and clicking closures.

29 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 28, wherein the support strap can be releasably closed in the chest region.

30 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 21, further comprising a buoyancy element on the chest side and on the side facing toward the body, the buoyancy element having a first closure means for fastening to the support strap, and on the side facing away from the body has a second closure means as additional fastening for an additional closure of the support strap

31 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 30, wherein the first and second closure means each comprise a hook-and-loop closure.

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32 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 21, wherein the buoyancy element comprises a closed cell foam material and is arranged in one or more of the following forms:

inserted as a filling in the support strap;
cut as panels to different shapes and releasably connected to the support strap; or
as formed-foamed, plastic or semi-plastic shapes or figures.

33 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 32, wherein the buoyancy element comprises a color.

34 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 15, wherein the size-variable element comprises a jacket or support strap and a plurality of buoyancy elements, which are covered with cloth material.

35 (Previously presented). The swimming aid device according to claim 34, wherein the jacket, support strap and/or the plurality of buoyancy elements are provided with imprints, embroidery, iron-iron transfers and darts.

36. Cancelled.